

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to more clearly define the invention as disclosed in the written description. In particular, claim 4 has been cancelled, while claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 4.

The Examiner has finally rejected claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,615,175 to Gazdzinski in view of "Official Notice".

The Gazdzinski patent discloses a "Smart" elevator system and method, in which reader recognizes RFID tags carried by various passengers, and grants access to particular floors in response to the RFID tag information after password authentication. The elevator system also includes a "Building Directory" function which enables use of voice commands, in combination with keyboard entries, for directing the user to the appropriate floor.

The subject invention, as claimed in claims 1 and 6, includes the limitation "wherein said at least one processor is programmed such that when said confidence level is lower than said predetermined confidence level, said at least one processor identifies a resource not matching said query by substituting a term in said query that identifies one of an object associated with said reader, an object associated with an MRL, or another term and searches responsively to said query for a resource and, upon finding said resource, generates an output responsive thereto", and

as claimed in claim 13, includes the limitation "when said confidence level is lower than a predetermined level, generating a second query in which another term is substituted for one of said multiple terms and using said second query to identify at least one further resource in said resource base and generate a further confidence level of a match between said second query and said at least one further resource and if said further confidence level is higher than said predetermined level or another predetermined level, generating a message responsive to said resource on a user interface".

The Examiner has indicated that this limitation (which appeared in claim 4) may be found in Gazdzinski at col. 3, lines 19-43, which states:

"In a second aspect of the invention, the information and control system further includes a network interface that is coupled to the aforementioned input and display devices. In one embodiment, the network (e.g., Internet) interface is configured to provide rapid access to a variety of web sites or URLs of interest, such as those providing local weather, directions from the elevator to local points of interest, stock market quotations, breaking news headlines, etc. Preset functions are provided which enable the user to access, download, and display the desired information with a single actuation of the input device. A plurality of different input/display devices are disposed within the smart elevator to allow multiple occupants to obtain information simultaneously.

"In a third aspect of the invention, the smart elevator includes one or more data terminals which are compatible with personal electronic devices (PEDs) so as to allow an occupant of the elevator to download a predetermined or adaptively determined "package" of

data for later retrieval or use. Such data may include news, weather, financial data, listings of building tenants, firm resumes, parking rates, hours of operation, and the like. In one embodiment, the download of data is initiated automatically upon the insertion of the PED into the data terminal, thereby reducing the time necessary to download to a minimum.";

col. 4, lines 5-20, which states:

"In a sixth aspect of the invention, an RFID tag and reader system is employed to uniquely identify occupants and provide them access to certain floors. RFID monitors with limited ranges are placed in certain locations near the elevator access points. These monitors interrogate the RFID tags and initiate a call signal for specific floor during after-hours operation. The user is then required to authenticate via a password input via the input device located inside elevator. The elevator system can optionally notify security (and/or the destination floor) of the individual's destination and identity, and maintain a record of access. The user may also optionally perform other functions such as lighting and environmental control from the elevator. The user's RFID tag may also be programmed to interface with the aforementioned PED data download device such that the tag pre-configures the system for download.";

col. 9, lines 45-67, which states:

"The user will then be prompted again to "Select (floor number) Floor?". If no matching entries are found, the sub-system will either notify the user to this effect, such as by using an audio message such as "NO matches found", or will display or announce the nearest approximation of the query based on a confidence rating. The confidence rating is calculated, for example, by the processor 106 running an algorithm; such confidence rating calculation algorithms are well understood, and indicate the quality of the match using a numeric value or index.

"As used herein, the term "match" includes any predetermined criteria for correlating one piece of data to another. For example, the building directory sub-system may be programmed to consider two pieces of data a "match" when all bits with the exception of the

least significant bit (LSB) are identical. Many such criteria are possible, and all are considered to be within the scope of the invention disclosed herein. Furthermore, partial matches, such as when the user enters one word which is matched within several different entries of the directory file, may be used as the basis for an appended search, as described below.

"The directory file described above also optionally has a location graphic data file appended or linked thereto, which...";

and col. 10, lines 1-12, which states:

"...is retrieved from the storage device 108, 110 or the server 170. The location graphic file is displayed on the display device 113 as a floor map graphic 502 illustrating the location of the selected person or firm 504 on that floor in relation to the elevator cars 180, as illustrated in FIG. 5. For example, the location of the individual or firm being sought is illuminated or colored, made to flash, and/or an illuminated arrow 506 is made to point to the desired location from the elevator. Numerous different and well understood visual and audible formats for providing the user with the desired information may be used with equal success, all of which are considered within the scope of the present invention."

Applicant submits that the Examiner is mistaken. In particular, col. 3, lines 19-43, discloses that the control system of the elevator includes a network interface for enabling access to a variety of websites of interest to provide, e.g., local weather, directions from the elevator to local points of interest, stock mark quotations, etc., and that the control system may include data terminals compatible with personal electronic devices allowing the occupant to download a predetermined or adaptively determined "package" of data for later retrieval or use. It appears that the Examiner is equating the personal electronic devices with the MRL

as claimed, and the websites with the resource base having resources.

Col. 4, lines 5-20 describe the RFID aspect of the "Smart" elevator system. As specifically described therein, the function of the RFID aspect is merely to identify the user of the elevator system and to restrict his/her use to specific floors, and to structure the downloading of data from the personal electronic devices. There is no disclosure of any generation of queries or searching being performed by the system in response to data from the RFID. Rather, Gazdzinski merely states that the information in the RFID is used.


While col. 9, lines 45-67 and col. 10, lines 1-12, describe searching based on a query function, Applicant submits that this is not related to data read from the RFID. Rather, as describe at the beginning of the paragraph to which the cited col. 9 section relates, i.e., col. 8, line 29 et seq., "Upon entering the elevator, the user initiates the "Building Directory" function of the system by pressing a function key 122 on the keypad 116 or touch display 113...The user may then speak the specific name of the party they wish to find, or select the name using the touch display 113 or other input device...." Hence, the searching and/or query function is related to either verbal commands or keyboard entry by the user.

Applicant submits that it appears that the Examiner has taken this disclosure in Gazdzinski out of context, i.e., picked out different unrelated functions described in Gazdzinski in an attempt to show the elements in the claimed invention. However, again, these function are unrelated and do not interact with each other.

In view of the above, Applicant believes that the subject invention, as claimed, is not rendered obvious by the prior art, and as such, is patentable thereover.

Applicant believes that this application, containing claims 1-3 and 5-17, is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

by 
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